

HA-1469

undetermined

Old Stone Building (Salt Shed)
117 E. Pennsylvania Avenue
Bel Air
public

This much altered plastered stone building is of unknown date and original use. It is probably 19th century, but it is too small to be a barn and too far from the big house - the now demolished "Shamrock" - to be a stable. It enters history as the gas works of the Bel Air Acetylene Gas Company of Harford County in 1907, and it is possible the firm built it. The Town has in the past used it for salt storage, but with the (1970) construction of a salt shed in the Public Works yard, that use will cease.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Old Stone Building
AND/OR COMMON
Salt Shed

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
117 E. Pennsylvania Avenue 1st
CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Bel Air
STATE VICINITY OF COUNTY
Maryland Harford

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER salt storage

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Town of Bel Air Telephone #: 838-5400
STREET & NUMBER
39 Hickory Avenue
CITY, TOWN STATE, zip code
Bel Air Maryland 21014

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Harford County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
Main Street
CITY, TOWN STATE
Bel Air Maryland

Liber #: 823
Folio #: 544

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

NR-1469

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☒ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This square stone rubble building, one and a half stories tall, partly plastered and open to the elements, is at 117 E. Pennsylvania Avenue in the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. The ridge of its slate gable roof runs east and west. The gables are lath. All of the windows in the building have been broken and are boarded up. A pair of them occupy the west gable. Just south of that a plain capped inside chimney rises. It once accommodated a forge. Below the pair of windows, in the center of the west elevation, is the remains of a many paned picture window. The east elevation has a loft door and flanking windows in the gable and double 4 pane over two panel doors in the center of the elevation. It looks as if it has been a loading dock.

The north elevation has a window and door in the east end. The south elevation is open to the elements. The gas company had a frame addition on this elevation in the 1930's.

The interior of this poor building shows the rafters that supported the long since collapsed loft. The chimney for the forge is visible in the west end. Everything else is buried in salt. A dug well was discovered when the floor collapsed under the weight of the salt some years ago.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 19th century BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The date of this stone rubble building where the Town of Bel Air now stores its road salt is uncertain. The size of the building makes speculation difficult. Until 1895 the land belonged to the heirs of Thomas Hays. It is mentioned in item #4 of the Hays will (7/752) as the meadow between the Tavern and garden occupied by William R. Bissell (Courtland Hardware) and the lands of Henry W. Archer (Shamrock). The property was left to Hays' daughter Pamela and then to Elizabeth Jacobs and her heirs. If the building is indeed of 19th century construction it was in the northeast corner of the meadow. It seems too small to have been a barn. It might have been a blacksmith's or wheelwright's shop, for when the floor collapsed under the weight of the salt a few years ago, a dug well was discovered. It could also have been a small stable although the interior has no remains of any stalls. One local legend has it a carriage house, but carriage houses are commonly closer to a main house than this building could have been.

Another possibility is that it was built in between 1902 & 1908. Charles L. Dallam, having bought the piece of land from Churchville Road to Pennsylvania (not yet cut through) and from the Odd Fellows Lodge to the Hickory Parking Lot from the Jacobses for \$1150 in 1895 (87/29), sold a part of it to Charles Robie Grafton for \$400 (104/20) in 1902. Grafton sold it to Joseph T. Deckman in 1903 (109/275). There is no mention of an improvement, but Grafton had a buggy shop in the vicinity. Did he built it? Deckman sold this portion of the lot to the Bel Air Acetylene Gas Company of Harford County (E. Tucker & Co., Inc.) in 1907 (122/259). Tucker had been granted the franchise to establish a gas lighting and heating system in the Town in April of that year. The Tucker Company may have built the building, for it enters the collective memory of the Town with the gas company.

Tucker sold it to the Bel Air Water and Light Company in 1914 for \$650 (145/221). At that time the building had a loft for storage, the remains of which can be seen in the east and west walls. It also had a forge connected to the inside end chimney in the west wall. The company used it for storage and repairs.

In 1969 the Maryland Water Works Company, the descendant of the old Bel Air Water and Light Company, gave the property to the Town (823/544). The Town uses it for salt storage and it is slowly deteriorating.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bel Air Centennial Book

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property occupies parcel #913 in the Town of Bel Air

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marilynn M. Larew, Architectural Historian

19 September 1979

ORGANIZATION

Town of Bel Air

DATE

838-8700

STREET & NUMBER

39 Hickory Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST 21 STATE CIRCLE SHAW HOUSE ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401 HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET Individual Structure Survey Form		SURVEY NUMBER: HA-1469	
		NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:	
		UTM REFERENCES: Zone/Easting/Northing	
		U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP:	
		PRESENT FORMAL NAME: Salt Shed	
COUNTY: Harford		ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME: ?	
TOWN: Bel Air			
LOCATION: 117 E. Pennsylvania Avenue		PRESENT USE: storing road salt	
		ORIGINAL USE: ?	
COMMON NAME: Salt Shed		ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:	
FUNCTIONAL TYPE: barn?		BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:	
OWNER: Town of Bel Air		PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE:	
ADDRESS: 39 Hickory Avenue		Excellent() Good()	
Bel Air, Md.		Fair() Poor(X)	
ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:		THEME: Architecture	
Yes(X) No() Restricted()		STYLE: Vernacular	
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:		DATE BUILT:	
Local(X) State() National()		19th Century?	
GENERAL DESCRIPTION:			
Structural System			
1. Foundation: Stone(X)Brick()Concrete()Concrete Block()			
2. Wall Structure			
A. Wood Frame: Post and Beam()Balloon()			
B. Wood Bearing Masonry: Brick()Stone(X)Concrete()Concrete Block()			
C. Iron() D. Steel() E. Other: rubble			
3. Wall Covering: Clapboard()Board and Batten()Wood Shingle()Shiplap()			
Novelty()Stucco()Sheet Metal()Aluminum()Asphalt Shingle()			
Brick Veneer()Stone Veneer()			
Bonding Pattern: Other:			
4. Roof Structure			
A. Truss: Wood()Iron()Steel()Concrete()			
B. Other:			
5. Roof Covering: Slate(X)Wood Shingle()Asphalt Shingle()Sheet Metal()			
Built Up()Rolled()Tile()Other:			
6. Engineering Structure:			
7. Other: plain cap			
Appendages: Porches()Towers()Cupolas()Dormers()Chimneys(X)Sheds()Ells()			
Wings() Other:			
Roof Style: Gable(X)Hip()Shed()Flat()Mansard()Gambrel()Jerkinhead()			
Saw Tooth()With Monitor()With Bellcast()With Parapet()With False Front()			
Other:			
Number of Stories: 1½			
Number of Bays: irregular			
Approximate Dimensions: 25' x 25'		Entrance Location: on the Hickory parking lot	
THREAT TO STRUCTURE:		LOCAL ATTITUDES:	
No Threat()Zoning()Roads()		Positive()Negative()	
Development()Deterioration(X)		Mixed() Other:	
Alteration()Other:			

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

plaster peeling
 lath in gable shows
 no window glass
 open to elements

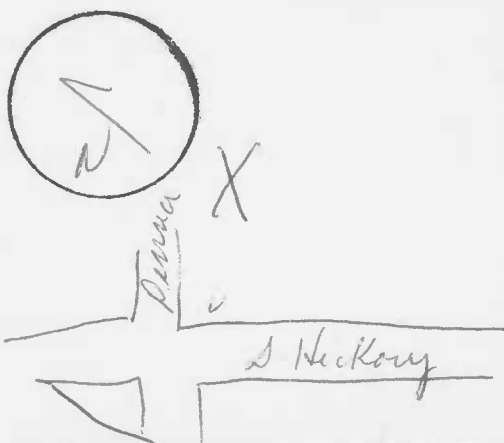
RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

19th Century stone rubble construction
 early use uncertain: stable? blacksmith? small barn?
 may also be early 20th century

REFERENCES:

MAP: (Indicate North in Circle)



SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

Open Lane() Woodland() Scattered Buildings()
 Moderately Built Up() Densely Built Up()
 Residential() Commercial()
 Agricultural() Industrial()
 Roadside Strip Development()
 Other:

Marilynn M. Larew

RECORDED BY:

Town of Bel Air

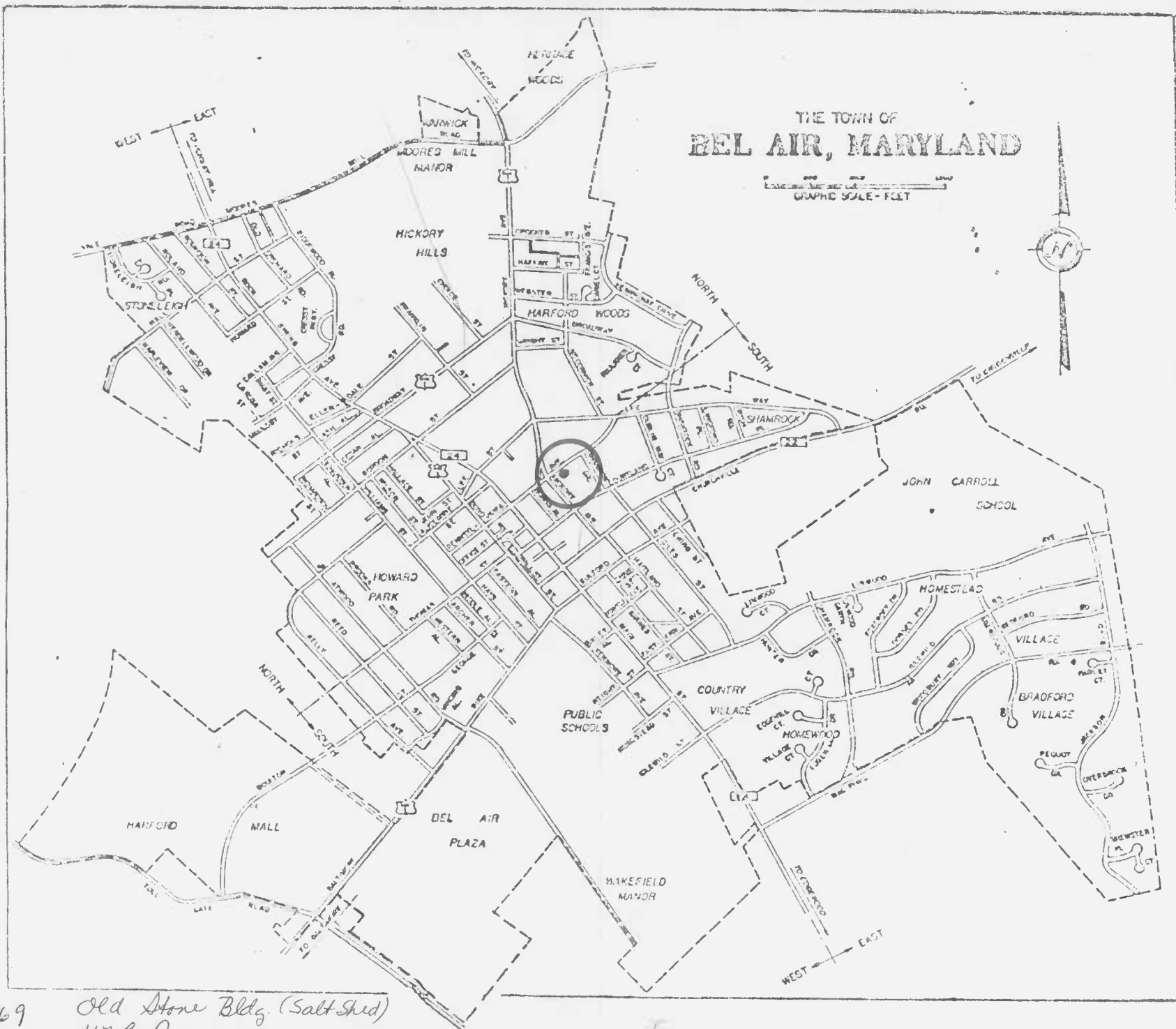
ORGANIZATION:

20 September 1979

DATE RECORDED:

TITLE: Salt Shed

823/544	6 August 1969 Maryland Water Works Co. to Town of Bel Air deed of gift
145/221	23 May 1914 E. Tucker & Co., Inc. to Bel Air Water & Light Co. \$650
122/259	28 August 1907 Joseph T. Deckman & Florida to Bel Air Acetylene Gas Co. of Harford County
109/275	25 May 1903 Charles Robie Grafton & Fireside Permanent Building Association to Joseph T. Deckman \$450 a larger lot
104/20	14 January 1902 Charles L. Dallam & Isabel to Charles Robie Grafton \$400 the larger lot
87/29	27 December 1895 Frank H. Jacobs & Elizabeth to Charles L. Dallam \$1150 a portion of item #4 in Thomas Hays' will (7/752)



HA-1469 Old Stone Bldg. (Salt Shed)
47 E. Penna. Ave







